

CHAPTER 18

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY: EUROPEAN STATES, INTERNATIONAL WARS, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

READING QUESTIONS

A. Define Enlightened Absolutism.

1. Compare the development of the two Atlantic seaboard states, France and Great Britain? How were they alike? How were they different?
2. Compare the development of absolutism in Central Europe-Prussia, the Austrian Empire, and Russia. What are the similarities and differences? Who were the rulers? Which were “enlightened”? What did the rulers achieve? How did they fail? How important was the character of the ruler in each case? How did Poland fit in the system and what was its impact on the three? Discuss changes in the Mediterranean World.
3. Wars and Diplomacy-Describe The War of Austrian Succession and The Seven Years War-include European Armies and Warfare.
4. How did the European social order change in the eighteenth century? Were the changes greater or lesser than in previous centuries?
5. Discuss the Agricultural Revolution and New methods in Finance. Also discuss European Industry and Mercantile Empires and Worldwide trade.
4. How and why did the nobility play a dominating role in the European society of the eighteenth century?
5. Given the numerous social and economic changes of the eighteenth century, those at the bottom of society often found themselves much worse off than in earlier centuries. Why?

Identifications:

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| 1. Enlightened absolutism | 13. Patriots v. the | 24. Treaty of Kuchuk- |
| 2. Louis XV | Orangists | Kainarji |
| 3. Cardinal Fleury | 14. Frederick William I | 25. partitions of Poland |
| 4. Madame de Pompadour | 15. Junkers | 26. War of the Austrian |
| 5. Louis XVI | 16. “Prussian militarism” | Succession |
| 6. Marie Antoinette | 17. Frederick II the Great | 27. Silesia |
| 7. the United Kingdom | 18. “the first servant of the | 28. Robert Clive |
| 8. “pocket boroughs” | state” | 29. Seven Years’ War |
| 9. the Hanoverians/the | 19. Maria Theresa | 30. French-Indian War |
| Georges | 20. Joseph II | 31. Montcalm and Wolfe |
| 10. Robert Walpole | 21. Catherine II the Great | 32. Treaty of Paris |
| 11. “Wilkes and Liberty” | 22. serfs | 33. scurvy and yellow |
| 12. William Pitt the Elder | 23. Emelyn Pugachev | fever |
| | | 34. press-ganged |

35. infanticide
36. potatoes and maize
37. agricultural enclosures
38. Bank of England
39. “banknotes”
40. John Law’s “bubble”

41. the “putting-out” or
“domestic system”
42. Richard Arkwright’s
“water-frame”
43. Thomas Gainsborough
44. Grand Tour

45. Herculaneum and
Pompeii
46. London’s one million
47. beggars and prostitutes
48. “balance of power”
49. “reason of state”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES

1. “The French King's Bedtime”: What does this document reveal about the condition of the French monarchy and the high French aristocracy during the reign of Louis XVI? Was there anything different between the *coucher* of Louis XVI and that of Louis XIV? If so, what? How might the royal behavior described here aggravate socio-political tensions in the French realm and unpredictably magnify “enlightened” critiques of kingly government and misrule? Would any particular segments of French society be especially critical of Louis XVI’s behavior. If so, which and why? (page 534)

2. “Frederick the Great and His Father”: Based on these documents, why was the relationship between Frederick the Great and his father such a difficult one? What in particular did Frederick William I deplore in the behavior and attitude of his son? What does this troubled relationship tell you about the affects of rulership on the great kings of Europe and their families. What new duties and concerns of monarchs (like Frederick William) may have reshaped relations between kings and their sons? (page 538)

3. “British Victory in India”: What differences, if any, would Clive had likely mentioned if the battle of Plassey had occurred in Europe? According to the letter, what part did native Indians seemingly play in the battle? Why such little mention? Who are the “blacks” referred to by Clive? Does his use of that word suggest anything about European attitudes towards non-Europeans? If so, what? Plassey was a crucial battle in the Seven Years’ War. Why? (page 546)

4. “Marital Arrangements”: What does Sheridan suggest about marriage among the upper classes in the 18th c.? What social, political, and economic considerations were significant in 18th c marriages? Could he be overstating the issue? (page 548)

5. “Impact of Agricultural Changes”: In Davies’s eyes, how were the changes in agricultural practices affecting England’s small farmers? What would he think would be the consequences of these changes/ (page 552)

6. “The Beginnings of Mechanized Industry: The attack on new machines”: What arguments did the Leeds woolen workers use against the new machines? What does the petition reveal about the concept of “progress” at the end of the 18th c? (page 554)

5. “Poverty in France”: What does this document reveal about the nature of poverty in France in the eighteenth century? Was there anything new about the events of 1708 as described in the document? If so, what were they? If not, why not? How would growing ranks of the poor in Europe further destabilize this society? Would traditional European modes of poor relief be in any way up to the challenge posed by more and more poor? Why or why not? (page 560)

MAP EXERCISES

1. Europe in 1763. MAP 18.1. What were the geographical factors that encouraged conflict between Prussia and Austria rather than between Spain and France or France and Britain? What role did geography play in the great wars of the eighteenth century? (page 536)
2. The Partitioning of Poland. MAP 18.2. What were the possible geographical reasons for the decline and fall of Poland in the eighteenth century? Which nations were parties to the partitions of Poland, and which nation benefited the most? (page 542)
3. Battlefields of the Seven Years' War, MAP 18.3. Why was the Seven Years' War called the "first world war"? Outside of Europe, where did the major conflicts take place, and who was/were the victor(s)? Why did the overseas battles take place where they did? (page 544)